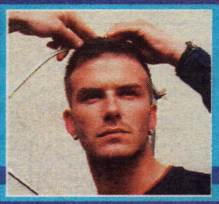
No 653 March 17, 2002

THE FUNDAY TIMES



Becks in wax
We see double as England's football captain arrives at Madame Tussaud's
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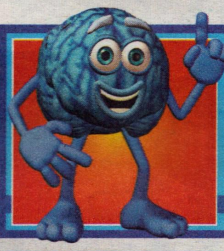

I'm Brainbox!
Can you beat the brain? We introduce you to our new character column
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Liberty X-treme
The name-changing popsters dare to board Thorpe Park's new Colossus ride
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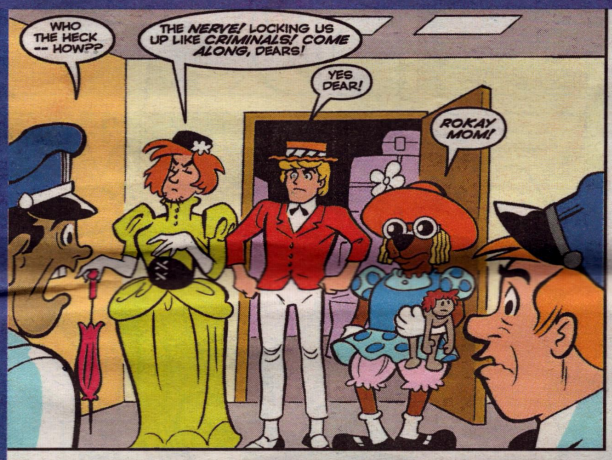
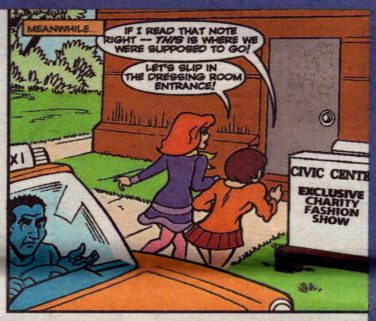
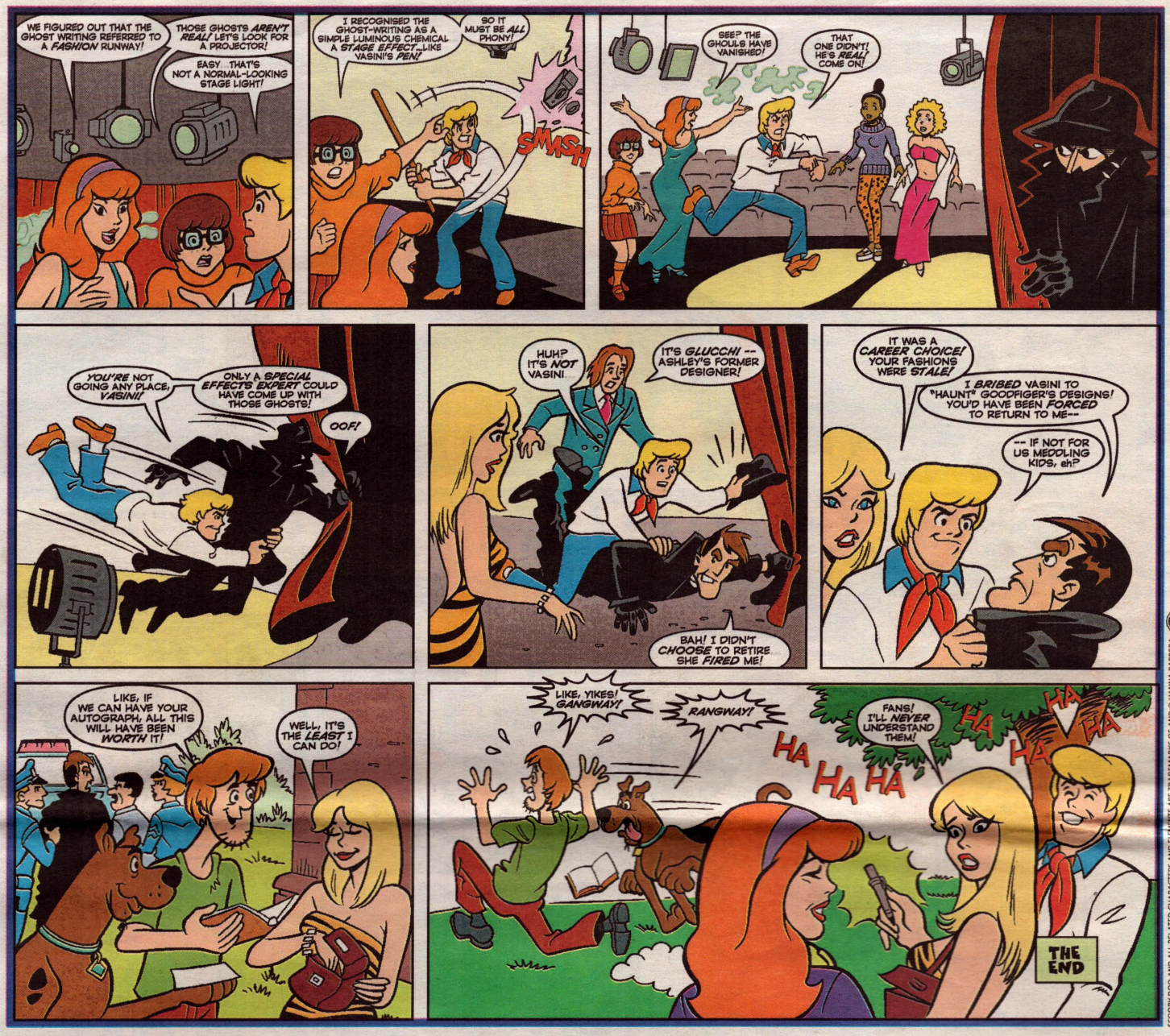
SCOOBY-DOO! in SCARE WEAR

The story so far – Superstar Ashley Stunn is in danger so Scooby, Shaggy and Fred decide to dress up to save her!





More inside

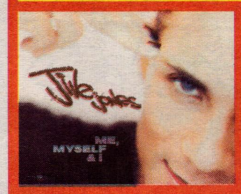


SCOOBY-DOO AND ALL RELATED CHARACTERS AND ELEMENTS ARE TRADEMARKS OF AND © HANNA BARBERA (S02)

KEEPING UP WITH THE JONES

Jive Jones is a fresh new talent who describes his music as: "A hybrid of pop, hip-hop and rock." His first single – Me, Myself And I – is out tomorrow and Jive is confident that it will rock into the top 10. "I'll go into my room and cry if it doesn't!" jokes the wacky American.

Jive has always wanted to become a musician so it was an ambition realised when Jive records took him on. "It's a total coincidence that we share the same name," laughs Jive. "People call me Jive because I'm a prankster. They're always saying, 'Stop jivin' around!' – but I can't tell you my real name because I'm an international man of mystery!"



Jive has already had success with songs he has written for other artists, including Mandy Moore and Anastacia. "It was always the plan to write for myself but it was a great opportunity for others to use my songs. It helped me to hone my skills," he adds.

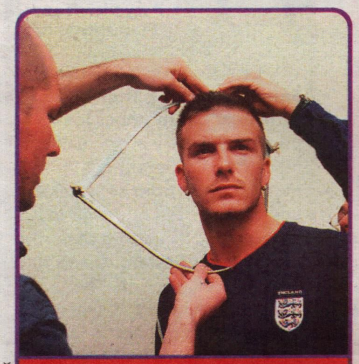
While Jive is happy to write songs for others, Me, Myself And I was always meant for him. "Everyone thinks it's a conceited song, but it's not, it's a youth anthem," explains Jive. "It's about how young people should be themselves and not try to fit in. Be different. I'm different."

Life has recently become very different for Jive. "Everyday is like a rollercoaster ride but I'm loving it," he gushes. "I love the celebrity parties because you get to meet your heroes! I've befriended Usher and Lenny Kravitz. I pretend I'm not a fan ... but I think I'll always be a fan!"

Hopefully Scooby and Shaggy will return for next week's new mystery!

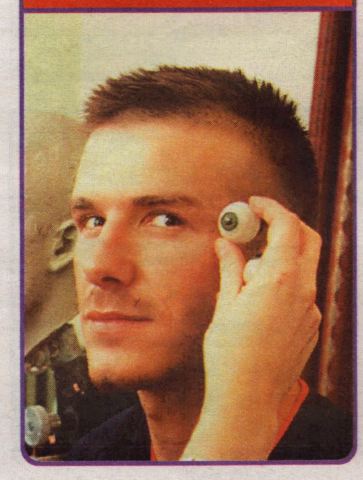
FUNDAY

NEWS

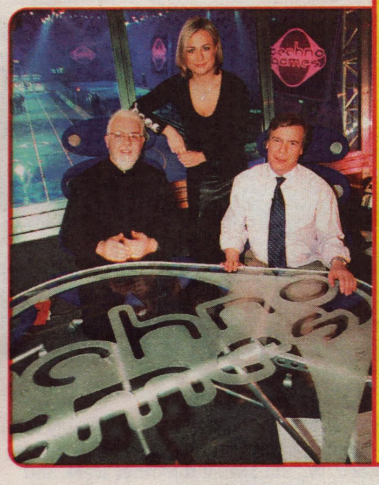


Role models

Madame Tussaud's has teamed up with the Football Association to create its latest attraction, Goal! The spectacle uses a mixture of video, music and wax models to celebrate some of football's more famous moments, including Beckham's free-kick against Greece which secured England's place in the 2002 World Cup finals. Becks and Sven Goran Eriksson have both undergone extensive sittings with Tussaud's sculptors. More than 200 measurements were taken of the two, while eye and hair colours were carefully matched. "We try and get as much information as we possibly can and both Sven and David were great to work with," says sculptor Louise Wiltshire. "David's hair is longer now so we've re-created the close crop he had a few months ago."



PICTURES: ©BBC, SIMON BURT/APEX



Techno titans

The UK's biggest robotic competition, Techno Games, kicks off tomorrow – and you can catch it for the next fortnight on BBC2, every weekday, at 6.45pm. The show, which is hosted by Philippa Forrester and Andy Collins, is in its third year and has more than 250 teams competing in 21 sporting events, including swimming, sumo and rope climbing. More than two thirds of the 700 competition entries came from schools and colleges and all were of an extremely high standard. "The auditions for Techno Games 2002 have thrown up some truly cunning design and engineering ideas," says the show's producer, John Fitzgerald. The sophistication of the participating robots means that organisers have been able to introduce new disciplines including the tug of war and the slalom!

Roxy lady

Newquay Zoo's recent arrival, Roxy Peru, is believed to be the first Hoffmann's sloth to be bred in captivity. She is doing well, even though her parents have rejected her, and she's now being hand-reared by animal manager Wendy Winstanley. Roxy is currently being weaned and has started teething, although she's still in an incubator. Visitors to the zoo can see her via a camera – though she mainly sleeps during the day. In the wild, Hoffmann's sloths are found in Central and South America, Ecuador and Costa Rica. To keep up to date with Roxy's progress, visit www.newquayzoo.co.uk

S Club 8

Stacey, Rochelle, Jay, Daisy, Frankie, Aaron

Calvin, Hannah

S Club 7 have chosen Stacey, Calvin, Daisy, Aaron, Hannah, Jay, Frankie and Rochelle [all aged between 11 and 14] to become the S Club Juniors. Stacey explains why there are eight of them: "We're not a mini S Club 7 – we're the next generation. Children can look up to us as an example of what you can do if you really, really try." The Juniors have already made an impression, performing on S Club's recent Carnival tour. "It was a bit scary at first," says Aaron. "But we soon got used to it." Their catchy pop was a hit with the crowds and they're hoping their debut single, One Step Closer [released next month] will be a chart-topper. "We want to be as successful as S Club 7," says Rochelle. "We want loads of number one singles, great albums and sell-out tours."

I'm game

Dan Holmes, 29, from Banbury, Oxfordshire, loves playing computer games so much that he has changed his name by Deed Poll to PlayStation 2! Dan, who spends four hours each day on his console, has so far spent £7,000 on more than 200 games.

"Most blokes say the love of their life is a girlfriend or wife, but I don't have one, so mine is my PlayStation," says Dan. "Everyone ribs me about it, so it seemed natural to change my name. I have even informed my doctor." He has even joked about marrying his PlayStation! "I have asked a few vicars if they would do the service but they didn't seem keen," says Dan. A Sony spokesperson adds: "Dan is our greatest fan."

If you were to change your name, what would you call yourself? Let us know!

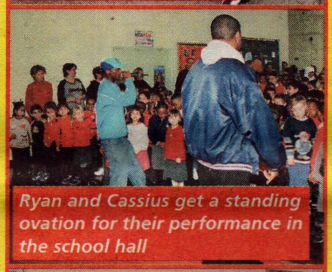
BACK TO SCHOOL!

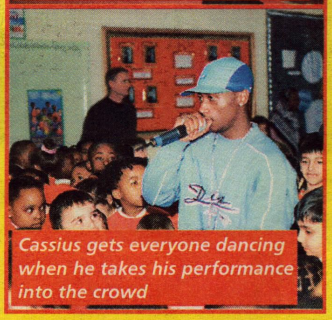
Dave Coombs joins new British R&B talent, 20-year-old Cassius Henry, on his schools tour

Hi Cassius, how are you finding the schools tour?
Well, I don't like the early mornings, but the kids on the tour wake me up. They hype me up and it sets me up for the whole day. They obviously appreciate us coming to perform. We've done 30 schools already and it's been fun – I wouldn't have missed it.

You let the pupils ask you questions at the end of your performance – do they ever put you on the spot?
The questions were quite tame today – but at primary schools they do always tend to ask sweet and cute questions.

Cassius with his partner in rhyme, Ryan Hope


Ryan and Cassius get a standing ovation for their performance in the school hall

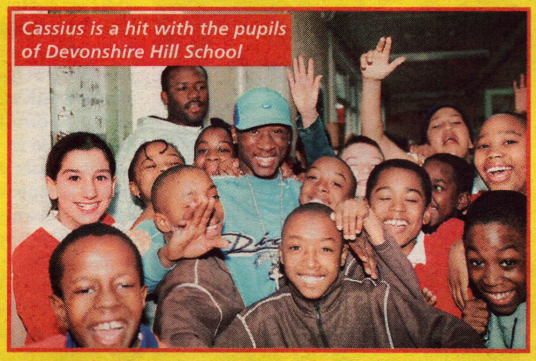

Cassius gets everyone dancing when he takes his performance into the crowd

PICTURES: TOM EVANS

You wrote your debut single, Broke – is it important to you to sing material that you've written?
Yeah, definitely, because it's me, and I'm talking about myself and my experiences – it's real. Writing is very important to me, I like to write my own lyrics.

What have you been doing other than the schools tour?
I did the R Kelly tour and that was wicked, especially when people were saying my name. It felt great performing in front of 15,000 people – it's been one of my dreams to perform like that. And I met R Kelly as well, he was great.

Did those big gigs inspire you?
Yes, definitely – it was inspiring to be on that big stage and get such a good response.

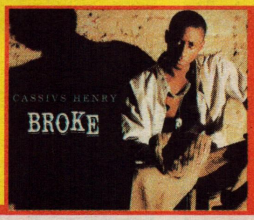

Cassius is a hit with the pupils of Devonshire Hill School

It must feel rewarding to get reactions like that after all the hard work you've been putting in?
Yes, it definitely feels like it's happening man. Slowly but surely. I'm just working hard, my label is trying its best to get me what I need. We did SM:TV the other week and that's big. So things are slowly getting there.

How many songs have you written so far?
I've definitely got an album's worth of stuff. I've worked with a team called Ignorants. They're a good team and we've got a little chemistry there. They did Broke, and they've worked on my second song too – called Cassius.

The kids at the school went mad for that track today?
They did, and I love that one. That track lyrically means the most to me because it talks about things I've been through. It's about letting out a lot of frustration.

What's been the best thing so far about being an R&B artist?
I like the shows, the clubs and the concerts. I'm a very fussy person when it comes to music – I don't like people who mime. I like it live, I like it real and that's what I do. So, when people appreciate me, they're realising my talent – and that's what I really want people to do. That's why live performance is so important to me. I want to let people know that I can do it and that I'm for real.

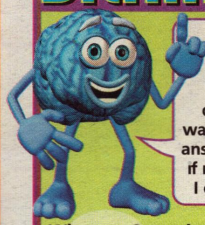


Cassius Henry's debut single, Broke, is out tomorrow

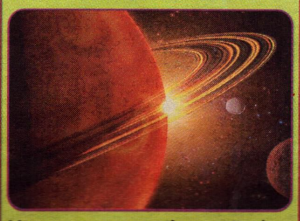
For more info on Cassius, log on to: www.cassiushenry.com

Thanks to the staff and pupils of Devonshire Hill School, Tottenham

BRAINBOX



What are Saturn's rings made of?
Sarah Styant, 12, Kent
Although Saturn's rings look pretty solid, they are actually made up of an enormous number of particles of water ice and other frozen materials in different orbits around the planet, just as asteroids and planets orbit our Sun. The particles are between 1cm and 10m across and reflect a lot of sunlight towards us. This makes the rings easily visible most of the time and despite being more than 300,000km across, they are mostly less than 1km thick. When the Pioneer and



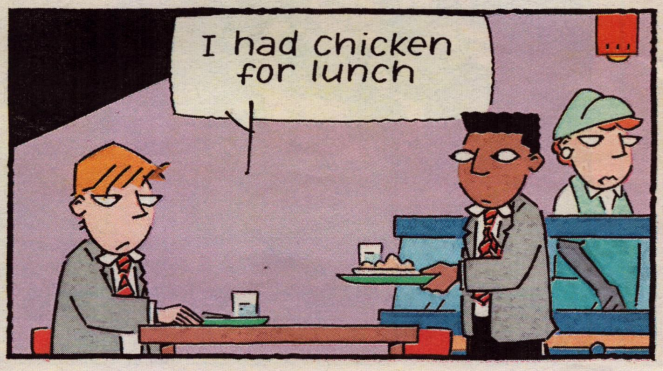
Voyager space probes passed Saturn in the late 1970s and early 1980s they revealed that the ring system is made up of thousands of individual rings and found several that are too faint to be seen from Earth. In 2003 the Cassini space mission will reach Saturn and send back new images of the planet, rings and its largest moon, Titan.

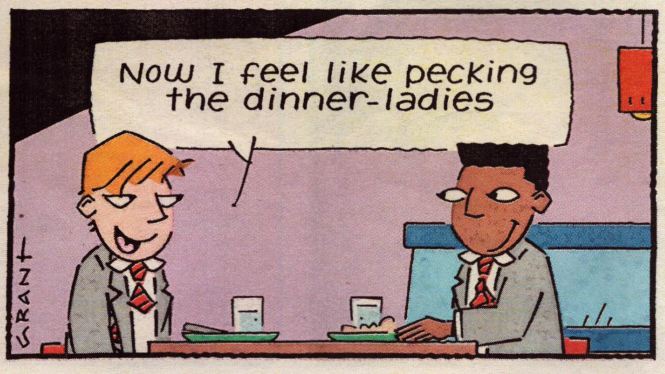
Answer by Dr Robert Massey, from the Royal Observatory, Greenwich. www.rog.nmm.ac.uk

PICTURE: REUTERS/GREG BACON ILLUSTRATION: JON STUART

If you have a question for Brainbox, write to: Brainbox, The Funday Times, PO Box 495, London E98 1ST or e-mail brainbox@sunday-times.co.uk

Jarvis





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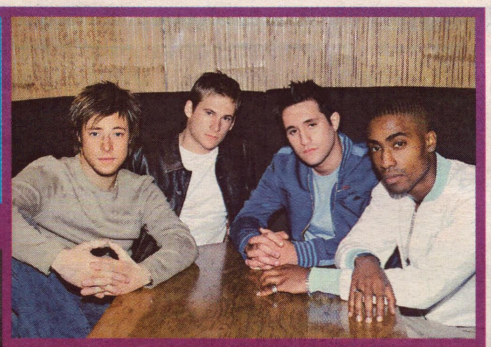
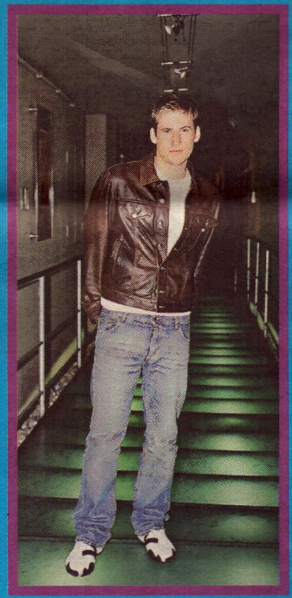
FLY GUYS

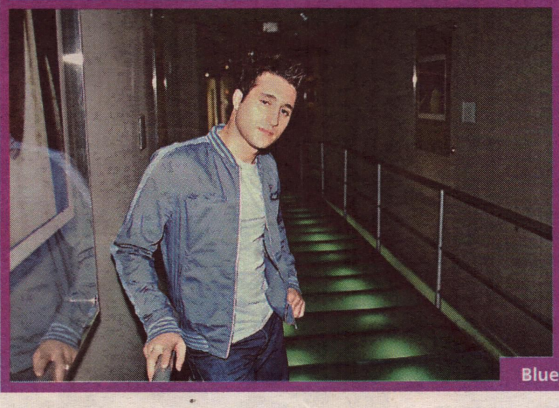
Paul Wray meets Blue, as the boys release their new single, Fly By II



Hi guys, Fly By is being released in the same week as Gareth Gates's Unchained Melody – are you a fan of his?
Antony: I think fair play to him. He'll do very well but, to me, he's going to be a superstar and he won't know how to handle it. He hasn't grafted like we have – doing the clubs, the universities, the schools.
Simon: I'm not really bothered. It's not just Gareth we have to worry about, it's George Michael too. I prefer to come behind someone like George Michael than a Pop Idol.
Duncan: I don't really know that much about him. We have been working in Australia and in South-East Asia, so we haven't seen the Pop Idol thing. I'm too busy in my own life to know about his life.
What did you think of the whole Pop Idol phenomenon?
Duncan: It's a good way to get known, as it's very hard to get into this industry and I think there's a lot of unnoticed talent out there. It's bad in the way that people have all these dreams and aspirations and judges turn around to them and say they should never do it again.

Antony: I think Zoe or Hayley should have won it, myself, but girls are not going to buy singles by girls. They want a young, good looking bloke on their wall.
Lee: It's a lot of rubbish because they are all winners – they all are releasing singles. I went for This Morning's boyband competition when I first met Antony. We won it but they didn't ring us and absolutely nothing happened. Will Young was in it – but he left because he wanted to go back to university.
How long you think all these Pop Idols will last?
Duncan: I don't know. All we can go by is Hear'Say and what's happened to them. They were the biggest things since sliced bread and then their second album flops, a band member leaves, it's all gone wrong for them. It's unfortunate because they are really nice people – I wish them the best of luck.





Antony: I don't know, it will go on and on. I think they should do a Football Idol next. How many people can do 10 kick-ups.
Lee: I don't think Will has got what Robbie Williams has got. The reason why Will is so big is because of the programme. I don't like his single, I mean it's a Westlife cover, which is a stupid idea. Rik should have won it but everyone kept going on about his weight. What's it got to do with his weight?
When did you know you had made it?
Lee: I don't think we have made it – Elton John, Lionel Richie and Madonna have made it, not us. We are just doing what we are doing and it could all end tomorrow, just like that.
Simon: When I heard our song on EastEnders, I said: "We're famous now boys, we're in the Queen Vic!"
Duncan: For me, it was getting the record deal and putting pen to paper on the contract – that was first step for me. It was something I'd been working on for three to four years.
Antony: When we won a Brit award. Everyone was saying that we were great but when Trevor Nelson read out "Blue" we were like: "We are here, man!"
Are you interested in celebrating the Queen's Jubilee?
Antony: Yeah, but the Queen should speak more to the public and not just once a year. I never knew what the Queen sounded like until five or six years ago. Prince William should also start to speak more to the public and get loads of teenagers behind him. There's a new generation of kids who aren't bothered about the Queen, which is a shame.

Duncan: Hopefully we are going to be doing something for it as well, which would be a great honour. It should be a respectful time to look at the Queen and what she has done for the last 50 years. Whatever people's views are about the monarchy, they should put that aside and join the celebrations.
Simon: It would be a great honour if we played the Jubilee concert, I don't know if we are. I met the Queen when I was at school, I gave her flowers.
Lee: No, I'm not really one of those royalists. I'd like to see them do a lot more for charity. Maybe they do, but we just don't see it.

PICTURES: TOM EVANS

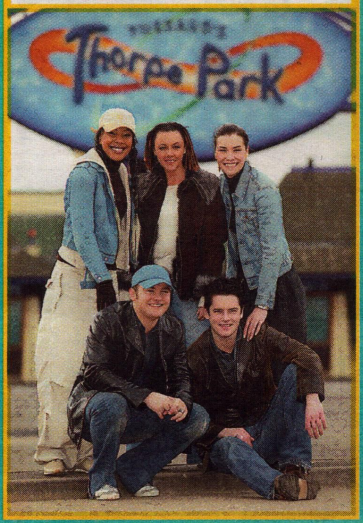
Blue were photographed at The Collection, 264 Brompton Road, London [www.the-collection.co.uk]

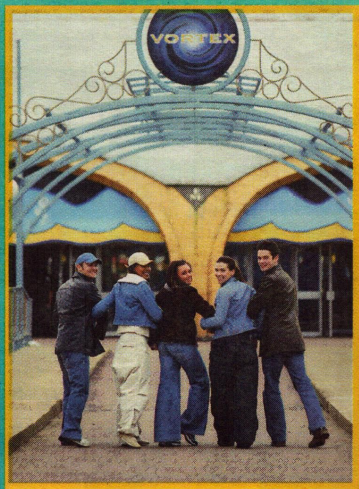
More top pop next week!

LIBERTY LOOP THE

When Funday was invited to an exclusi preview of Thorpe Pa record-breaking ne 10-looping rollercoas we invited Liberty X along for the ride!

1 When the funky five arrive at the gates of Thorpe Park, in Surrey, Liberty X can't wait to get inside and test Colossus – the world's first 10-looping rollercoaster.





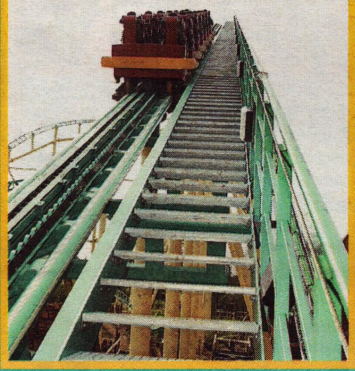
2 Actually, not everyone is eager – Michelle is beginning to have her doubts. "As we were driving into the park the ride looked really easy, but now I'm getting closer I'm thinking, 'no'," she groans.

3 The mighty Colossus is a £10m feat of engineering. The spectacular ride incorporates 850m of tangled track, beating its nearest rival by two loops – taking Thorpe Park into the superleague of big thrills.

4 The countdown has begun – and the band can't wait to get into the coaster carriages to start riding. One last pose, before they brave those loops!

5 "I'm quite good with rides, but I agree with Michelle – it looked easy from a distance – but now I think this is going to be really scary," says Kelli through clenched teeth, as she lowers her safety harness.

6 "I'm probably going to be sick," jokes Michelle. "I build myself up to rides and I like to think that I'm really hard. But when it comes down to it, I don't actually want to go on them at all."



7 And they're off! The train begins its slow clanking climb up the lift hill – and the girls from Liberty X can already be heard screaming.

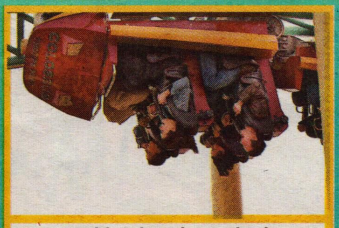
8 Immediately after the lift hill, the coaster swoops into its first heart-stopping drop and then rises into the sky to complete this dramatic vertical loop.

9 Next it's straight into two camel humps and a lurch as the carriages plummet beneath the ride shop. "That bit by the shop was the worst," recalled Tony after his first ride. "You really think you're going to hit it."

PICTURES: JAMIE HUGHES

10 There's barely time for the band to catch their breath as the coaster soars back up into the sky once again into a twisted cobra roll, and onto the remaining seven inversions.

11 Colossus continues to deliver thrills right up to the end – including this incredible four-loop corkscrew, just before the train makes one final turn into the station.

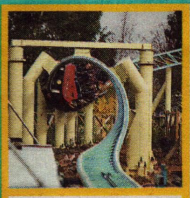


12 Hold tight! The multiple corkscrew turns riders upside down over a lake. "The corkscrew was my favourite part," gasps Jessica after the premier ride. "Because all the blood rushes to your head and you think you're going to fall out. I didn't dare let go."

13 The brakes are on! The train slows down as it returns to the station, and the first ride on Colossus is over. Liberty X all whoop for joy.

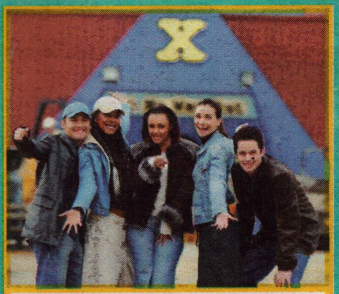
14 Michelle decides that once is enough, but there's no stopping the rest of the band – who can't wait to make the most of their hour-long session on Colossus.

15 "Let's do it again – and next time I want to sit at the back," yells Kevin, before the train begins its mammoth journey around this gigantic ride once again.



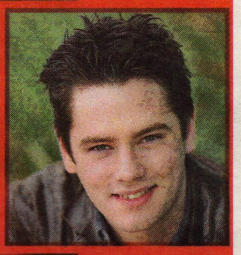
16 Just when you think it's over... Colossus keeps its 10th and final inversion for the very end. As the train turns into the home straight, this final 360 twist gives everyone a final thrill.

17 Kelli retires after another couple of rides – but there's no stopping Jessica, Kevin and Tony. They continue until they can't take any more! "I think by riding it six times we've overdone it a bit," grimaced Tony, as he staggers from the train. "Yes, six times has made me feel a little bit sick," admits Kevin. "I could do it again!" laughs Jessica.

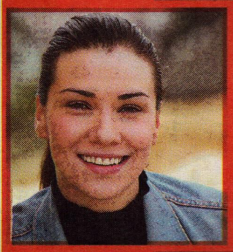


18 Before leaving the park, Liberty X couldn't resist posing by Thorpe's very own X-factor – the No Way Out dark rollercoaster ... but everyone has had enough thrills for one day. "We've had a great time," beams Tony. "Yes, thanks Funday!"

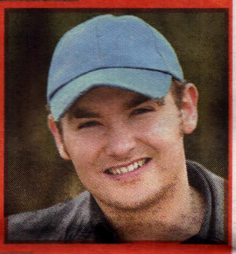
KELLI:
Before: I'll try anything once.
After: Well, I did it more than once and it was brilliant.



TONY:
Before: It's quite noisy
After: It's brilliant – one of the best rollercoasters I've ever been on.

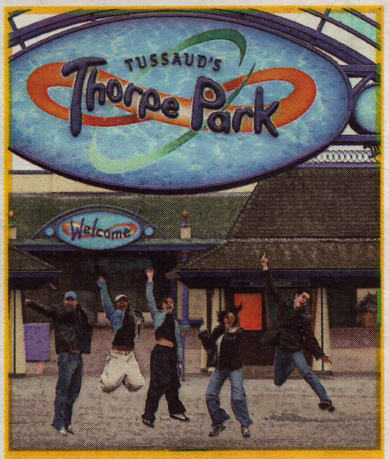


JESSICA:
Before: I'm never too sure about rides before hand.
After [six goes]: That was wicked!



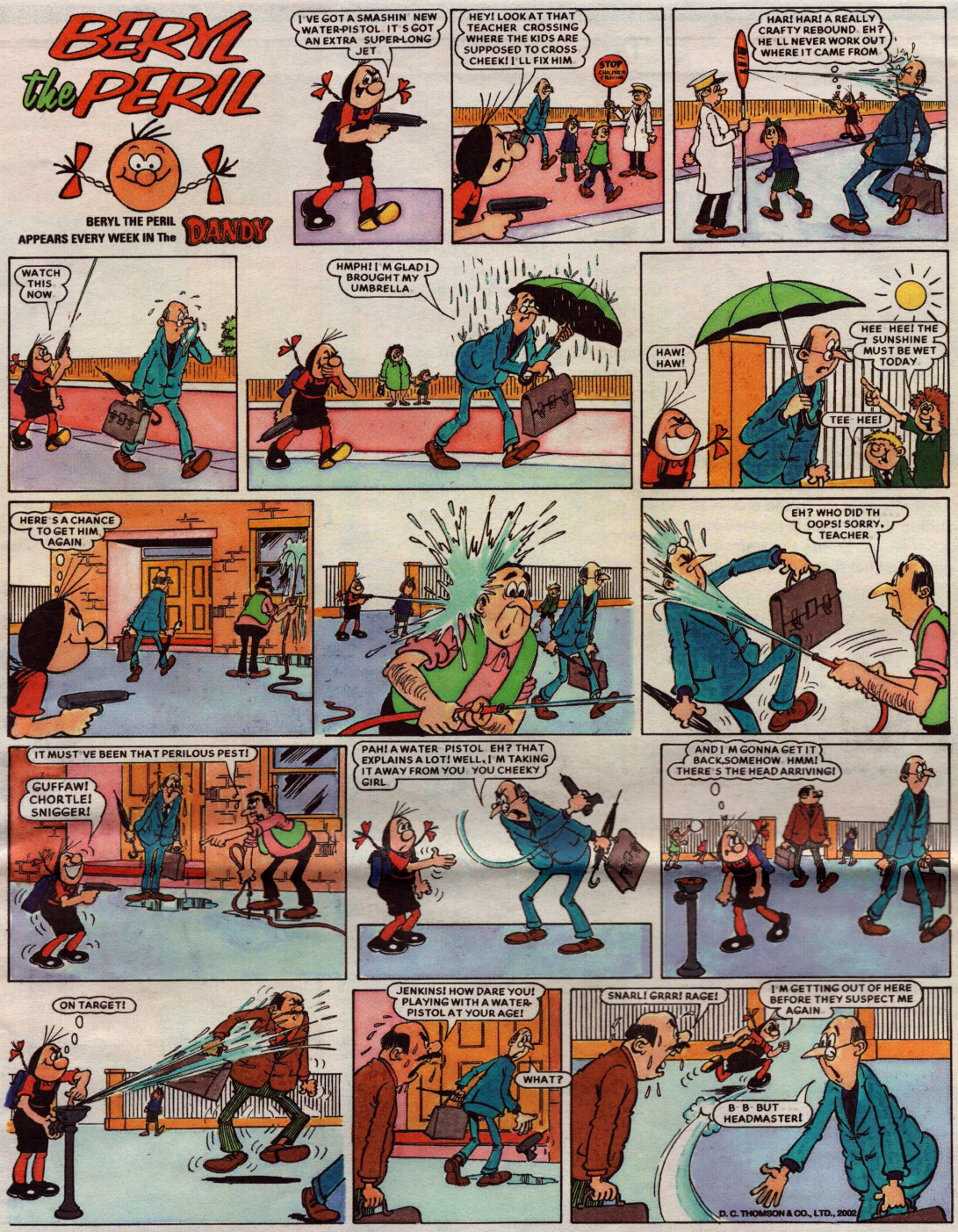
KEVIN:
Before: It looks quite tame, not scary at all.
After: Wow! It turned out to be a bit of a beast!

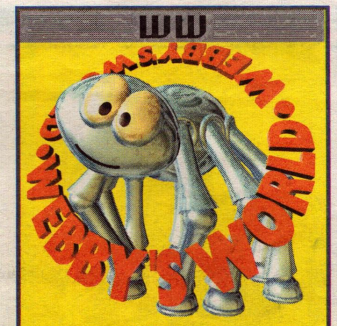
MICHELLE:
Before: It's a nice sunny day, so this can't be too bad.
After: It was exciting, but there's absolutely no chance I'm going on it again!



Liberty X's new single, Just A Little, will be released in May

Thorpe Park – and the mighty Colossus – opens to the public on Friday. For more info, visit: www.thorpepark.co.uk





www.handclaire.com

Who would have thought it? H and Claire clubbing together to form their own act. Catch up with what the ex-Steps stars are planning on this official site. It is a bit sparse at the moment – but you can feast on moody snapshots of the twosome and the news that a debut single, entitled DJ, is already in the pipeline.

PICTURE: PA/MYUNG JUNG KIM

www.cremeegg.co.uk

Collect Creme Egg wrappers, register online and transfer the wrappers into EggCreds to bid for lots that include concert tickets, cinema screenings or a school visit by 3SL. Club together with mates to collect more – or boost your credits by playing the online games. Hurry, though, registration ends on March 21.

If you are a webhead and have discovered a great site, or have created one of your own, spin me a mail and tell me all about it on webby@sunday-times.co.uk

FRESH!

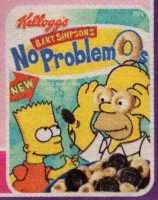
GOLDEN SUN ★★★★★

Magic, evil enemies and sword fights can all be found on this fantasy role-play game. Golden Sun is a sprawling epic where Lord Of The Rings meets Dungeons and Dragons for the Game Boy generation. As Isaac, you have to battle the forces of evil using psychic energy, which is engaging and frustrating in equal measure. Mastering the controls takes effort, with various commands to get to grips with – but thanks to the game save, progress can be made.

GAME BOY ADVANCE

BART SIMPSON'S NO PROBLEMOS ★★★★★

Cereal maker Kellogg's is onto a winner with this new Bart Simpson cereal. It consists of crunchy frosted cereal loops and mini-chocolate biscuits, each featuring one of 12 Simpsons characters including Scratchy, Itchy, Krusty and Moe. While Lisa would approve of No Problemos' vitamins and minerals, Bart would love them as they taste radical, dude! Not too chocolatey to make you feel ill, but they're sweet enough to keep up your energy levels. Crunch king!



CEREAL

HOT WHEELS BURNIN' RUBBER ★★★★★

Racing Hot Wheels on a handheld may not grab your attention quite as much as say, racing Formula One cars – but don't underestimate this classy little mover. It looks great and there are enough degrees of difficulty, with bronze, silver and gold cups to race for, to keep you thrilled. Add to this, gear changing, 16 different tracks, five styles of car and seven upgrade options – it's not for the learner. Small, but packs a powerful punch!

GAME BOY ADVANCE

Beryl's up to no good again next week!

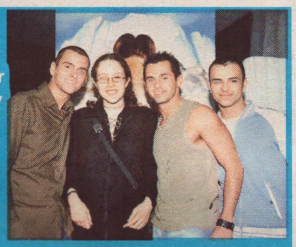
FUNDAY

BUZZ!

MEGASTORE MANIA

American hip-hop stars, City High, attracted hundreds of fans to the Virgin Megastore on London's Oxford Street last week. The talented trio of Robby, Claudette and Ryan popped in to give a live performance of their new top 10 smash, Caramel – before signing copies of the single, which also features Eve.

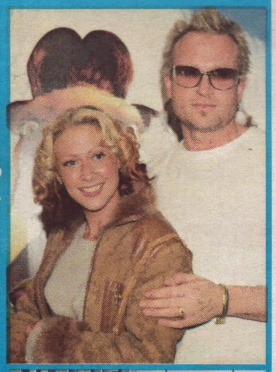
THE ICE AGE IS COMING!

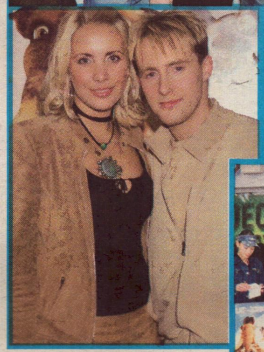


The stars came out in force last Sunday for the UK premiere of the new computer animated comedy – Ice Age. And nobody got closer to all the celebrities than Funday's lucky Ice Age competition winner, Lisa Anderson.

Lucky Lisa was greeted by the lads from 3SL and their big sis Lisa Scott-Lee in the foyer – and even got to watch the movie alongside the stars. "I'm having a brilliant time!" she grinned.

Tanned Faye Tozer arrived at the premiere with her boyfriend Jasper, and admitted that she wasn't exactly dressed for the Ice Age! "That's because I've just come back from performing on a cruise ship in the Pacific," she beamed. Faye was singing onboard the liner with opera star Russell Watson – while also enjoying the tropical delights of ports in Hawaii and Tahiti.



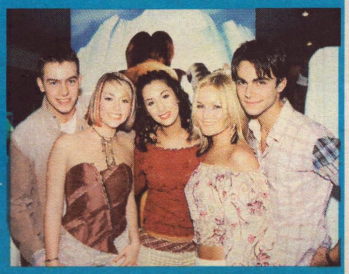


Steps breakaway duo H and Claire got a big cheer as they walked down the red carpet, and Kym Marsh also proved popular with fans outside the Odeon Kensington.

The celebrities were greeted by characters from the film, and none got a warmer reception than Sid the sloth when he was given this big hug by Kelli from Liberty X.

"We were supposed to be recording in the studio today, but then suddenly our diary was rearranged, which meant we could come to Ice Age. This is much more fun than working," said X's Jessica.

Is there a chill in the air? No, it's just the allSTARS messing about in the Ice Age-themed foyer! "The film is really funny, I'd really recommend it," squealed Becky. "It's also really sad at one point, and it brought a tear to my eye!"



WHAT'S IT LIKE?

Ice Age does not come from the makers of Monsters, Inc. or Shrek – or any previous hit computer animation – but don't let that put you off. This film is fantastic. Not only is the animation top notch, but the hilarious and touching story will have you hooked from the awesome opening ice flow until the funny final frame. Sid the sloth, Manny the mammoth and Diego the sabre-tooth tiger may make an unlikely herd, but that's half the fun. Their epic journey and clashing personalities make it an entertaining ride! Ice Age opens at cinemas nationwide from March 22 – get your skates on.

HOT!

Video
TV

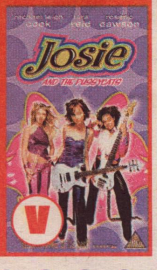
SO LITTLE TIME ★★★★☆

Hungry for more Mary-Kate and Ashley? Then tune into So Little Time on Fox Kids from Friday [at 7.30am and 3.30pm]. Life is eventful for Riley [Mary-Kate] and Chloe [Ashley], whose parents are separated but live close to each other. Their parents used to run a successful fashion design label, and Riley and Chloe now split their time between mum's swanky house and dad's trailer. There are lots of Olsen twins programmes on TV at the moment, but this is the very latest series from America. So, catch it first in the UK on Fox Kids – every day until April 7, and then weekends at 10am and 3.30pm.

A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF ... BLUE ★★★★★

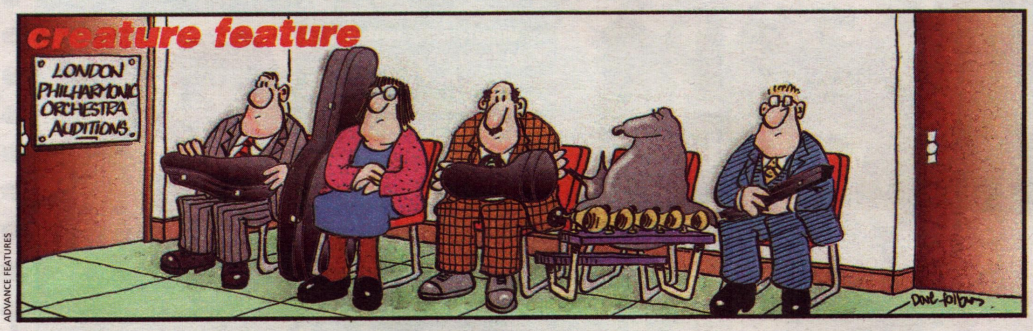
You can't get much hotter than the boys from Blue right now, and you can't get a better look at the lads' lives, travels and work than with this great video. Camcorder footage lifts the lid on the boys at work – at photoshoots, TV appearances, gigs and roadshows. You can even follow Lee, Antony, Simon and Duncan to Australia and New Zealand and watch their most revealing interviews to date, in which they talk about their work and strong friendship. And if that weren't enough – you also get the videos to all their hits, including new track Fly By II.

JOSIE AND THE PUSSYCATS [cert PG]

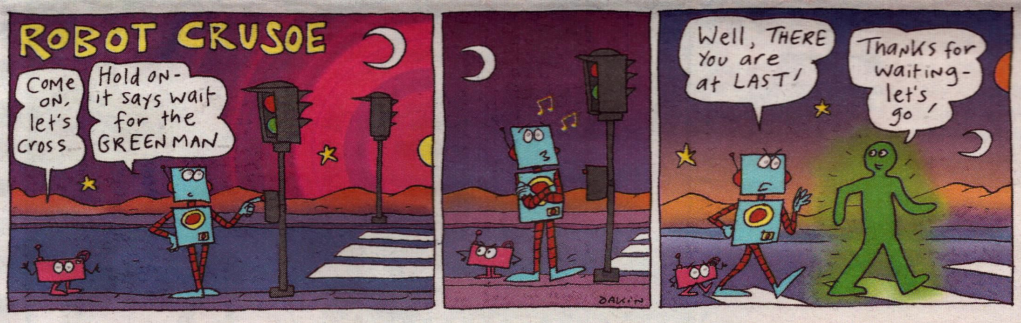


Josie And The Pussycats [£9.99] is a likeable comedy about a girl rock group who hit the big time – thanks to a sinister and manipulative record company. Despite all the fame and glamour, the girls soon realise that it's caring for each other that matters ... ahh! It's over the top, reassuringly predictable but as a teen movie – it rocks! The sort of film mum and dad will think is brainless, but hey, it wasn't made for them. Plus, check out DuJour, the hilarious spoof boyband!

PICTURES: PA/WILLIAM CONRAN, TOM EVANS



ADVANCE FEATURES



NEXT WEEK

PICTURE: TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX

Brace yourself, the Ice Age is coming! Discover how the animated spectacular was created

Pop princess Britney Spears tells us all about starring in her first film, Crossroads

Diggit's Laura and Victoria look back at the year since they became TV stars

f-mail

Send your letters, cartoons, jokes and drawings to: The Funday Times, PO Box 5073, Leighton Buzzard LU7 7GX. Send your e-mail to: funday.times@sunday-times.co.uk

TWIN THING

When Mary-Kate and Ashley visit their grandfather in Paris, they're soon enjoying many magnifique adventures! Passport To Paris is a hilarious movie that sees the twins falling in love with the French capital. Whether it's visiting the boutiques for a spot of shopping, checking out Notre-Dame or going for dates at the Eiffel Tower, the Olsen girls know how to party!

To celebrate the release of Passport To Paris on video, Warner Home Video is giving the writer of the star f-mail a Canon camera [perfect for taking pics of any foreign trip!] and a copy of the video.

The other f-mailers will receive a copy of the video and an iZone camera.

STAR

Dear f-mail,
Here is my poem about Harry Potter.

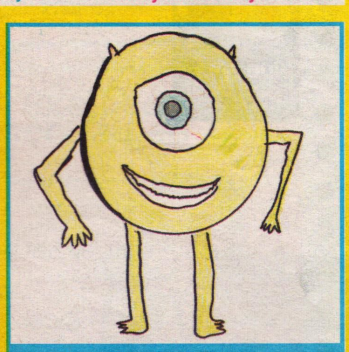
Do you know you're
a muggle?
No, I can see you're not a fan.
The world of witches and
wizardry,
Is in the palm of your hand.

Have you heard of Hogwarts?
Can you not make a guess?
You head straight for platform
9¾,
To catch the Hogwarts Express.

Can you tell me who's in
Griffindor,
Hufflepuff, Slytherin and
Ravenclaw?
And who would the professor
of potions be,
Be it Professor Snape or
Dumbledore?

Have you given up yet,
Or are you getting hotter?
J K Rowling is your final clue,
To the world of Harry Potter.

Russell Prowse, 10, Caterham



Fiona Boyd, 10, Inverness

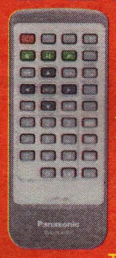
FUNDAY

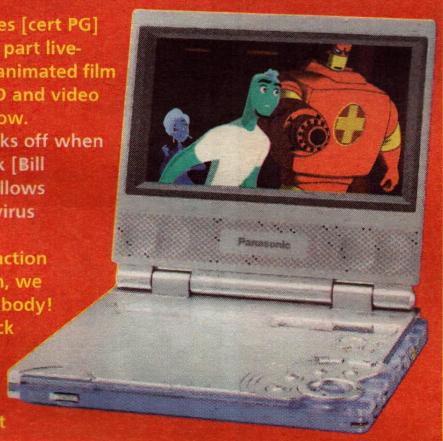
WIN IT!

COMPETITION ADDRESS Send answers to all competitions to us at: The Funday Times, PO Box 5073, Leighton Buzzard LU95 1AY. Competition deadline: March 27

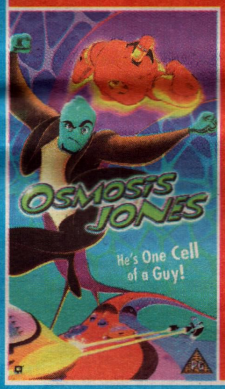
You can e-mail your competition answers to: funday.comps@sunday-times.co.uk
Sorry, but only one e-mail per entrant will be accepted.

JUMPING JONES





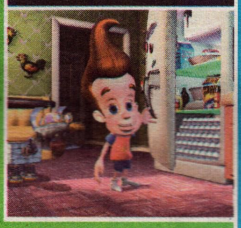
Osmosis Jones [cert PG] is a hilarious part live-action, part animated film – out on DVD and video from tomorrow.
The story kicks off when its star, Frank [Bill Murray] swallows a villainous virus called Thrax.
Then, as the action transforms into animation, we delve deep inside Frank's body! The film follows a maverick white blood cell cop called Osmosis Jones and his cold-capsule sidekick, Drix, as they try to thwart the evil Thrax.
To celebrate the retail release of the movie, Warner Home Video is offering one lucky reader a palmtop DVD player and a copy of Osmosis Jones on DVD. Plus, 10 runners-up will each receive a VHS copy of the funny movie.



To enter, tell us which ex-footballer, turned movie star, also has the surname Jones

Mark your entry JONES and send it, with your name, age and address, to the competition address above.

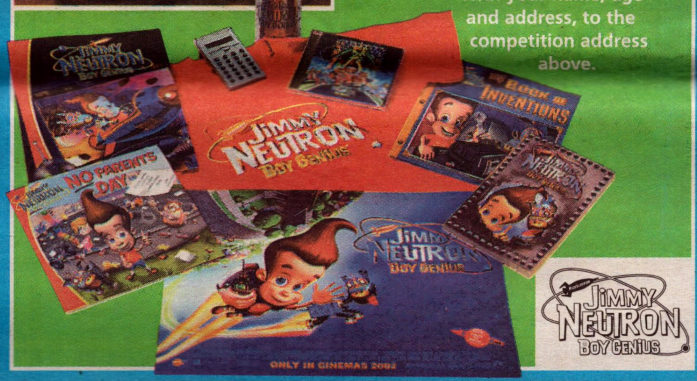
GO JIMMY



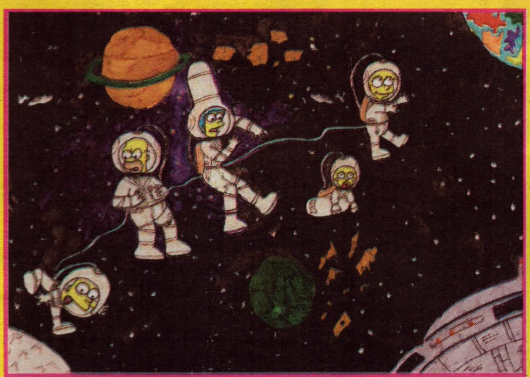
Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius [cert U] is the chucklesome animated movie about a smart schoolboy and his robot dog, Goddard.
Gadget crazy Jimmy dreams about living on his own. One day all the parents in his home town are kidnapped by the dreaded Yokians, a group of invading aliens. And that's when Jimmy discovers that life is not so good being solo. Armed with his inventions, his trusty dog and his best friend Carl Wheezer, Jimmy embarks on a massive adventure!
UIP/Paramount Pictures is offering three winners a Game Boy Advance console and a copy of the Jimmy Neutron game.
Plus, 20 runners-up each receive a Jimmy Neutron goody bag made up of a poster, T-shirt, calculator, Thermos flask, books and CD soundtrack.

To enter, tell us what a neutron is

Mark your entry JIMMY and send it, with your name, age and address, to the competition address above.



Normal TNL competition rules apply to all Funday Times competitions



Artyom Thompson, 8, Sutton

Dear f-mail,
In reply to Rachael Rado's letter [issue 651], I am appalled by the lack of enthusiasm for learning shown by my generation. If anything, we should want to learn more. Learning only takes up five hours of each weekday, so what are you complaining for? The more you learn, the more you understand basic concepts such as maths, science and grammar. You need to be educated. I don't think Rachael thought through what she wrote, because learning is knowledge and knowledge is power. I have been called many things for being enthusiastic about work, such as swot, and other less polite names. But you don't have to act all strange and nerdish to be intelligent; it just gives you more understanding of the world around you. So I say, you have to learn as much as you can or you'll not get anywhere as an adult. So wake up to the truth. Knowledge in itself is power, and we all want power.
Helen McCartney, 12, via e-mail

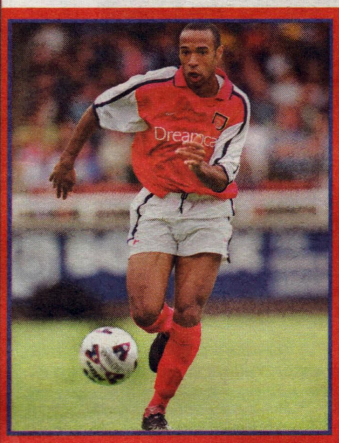
Dear f-mail,
Here's my drawing of Gandalf.
Anna Taylor, 11, Newton Abbot

FUNDAY

SPORT

FRENCH FACE-OFF

Arsenal travel to Turin on Wednesday to face Italian giants Juventus in a crucial Champions League encounter at the Stadio Delle Alpi. The game brings together two of Europe's in-form strikers – Arsenal's Thierry Henry and Juventus's David Trezeguet. Funday takes a look at the French goal-grabbers who will form France's potent strike force during the World Cup finals in Japan and South Korea this summer



THIERRY HENRY

- Born in Paris on August 17, 1977 – the Arsenal goalscorer first made his mark with French side Monaco, helping them reach the UEFA Champions League semi-final in 1998.
- Thierry was France's top scorer in their 1998 World Cup winning side – he also scored three goals at Euro 2000. His record for his national team is 33 appearances and 11 goals.
- Following his success in the 1998 World Cup, Thierry made a big-money transfer to Juventus. It proved to be a disappointing move, with the Frenchman hitting just three goals in 16 appearances.
- Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger then snapped up Thierry for £11m in August 1999 and converted him from a wide player into one of the Premiership's top strikers.
- Since arriving at Arsenal, Thierry has played 164 games for the Gunners, scoring 96 goals – a phenomenal scoring rate of more than one goal every two games.

DAVID TREZEGUET

- Although born in the French city of Rouen, David grew up in Argentina. The Juventus hotshot is just 59 days younger than Thierry Henry, having being born on October 15, 1977.
- Like Thierry, David started his career at Monaco where he scored 52 goals in 93 appearances, earning his nickname "Trezegol".
- A £15m move to Juventus followed in 2000 and, despite injuries, David hit 14 goals in 25 league games.
- For France, David scored the golden goal that beat Italy in the Euro 2000 final. This followed the disappointment of playing in every round of the 1998 World Cup – except the final! Since then, David has gone on to score 17 goals in 34 appearances for his beloved Les Bleus.
- Despite speculation last month linking David to a £50m move to Arsenal, the Juventus marksman has already hit 18 goals in Italy's Serie A this season.

Watch Juventus v Arsenal on ITV1, this Wednesday, from 7.30pm

SPORT NEWS

Funday picks out the best of this week's sporting action

Today Malaysian Grand Prix, Sepang

The Formula One season got off to a spectacular start in Melbourne two weeks ago. Even though Michael Schumacher looked comfortably superior to the rest of the field, there were enough signs to suggest that there could be a few surprises in store in 2002. Watch a replay of the race on ITV1 at 1.30pm.

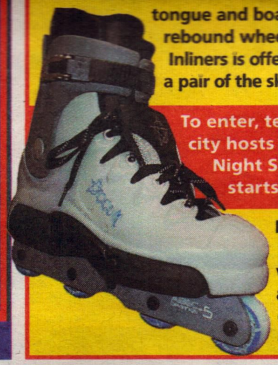
Saturday Six Nations, Scotland v France, Murrayfield

France out-thought and outfought England in Paris to keep alive their hopes of grand-slam glory, while destroying England's. Les Bleus now face the passionate Scots, who will be eager to avoid a second defeat at Murrayfield. Watch the game live on Six Nations Grandstand on BBC1, kick-off at 4pm.

GREAT SKATES

State-of-the-art Inliners Occult skates are a must-have for all in-line skaters. The skates have fast ABEC-5 bearings for an ultra smooth ride and a large six-piece sole plate to help pull off some top tricks. The skates have lower cut ankle cuffs, a padded tongue and boast 57mm super high rebound wheels.

Inliners is offering five lucky winners a pair of the skates, plus safety gear.



To enter, tell us which British city hosts the weekly Friday Night Skate [clue: the skate starts in Hyde Park!].

Mark your entry INLINERS and send it, with your name, age and address, to the competition address on page 11.

PICTURES: GRAZIA NERI/GETTY IMAGES; SHAUN BOTTERILL/ALLSPORT; REUTERS/DAVID GRAY; AFP/FRANCOIS MORI

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